



United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service
Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office
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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY REPORT March 2004



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LGLFRO Staff

Chris Castiglione, GIS Specialist
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Gail Testa, Administrative Officer
Betsy Trometer, Fishery Biologist
Emily Zollweg, Fishery Biologist

Volunteers

John Doucette, Eric Weber, Mike Prusakowski,
Brodie Follman

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Lake Erie Commercial Fisher Report

Emily completed the Lake Erie portion of the Great Lakes Commercial Fisher Assistance project, where commercial fishers tag incidentally caught lake sturgeon. Lake Erie Canadian commercial fishers tagged 25 lake sturgeon in 2003, a record high for Lake Erie. As this project continues we expect to gain valuable insight into the population structure and migratory patterns of lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes.

LAKE ERIE

Betsy and Marty Stapanian (USGS, Sandusky) completed the status of the burbot section of the Coldwater Task Group's annual report. The information in this report was presented at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Lake Erie Committee annual meeting in Grand Island, NY

(3/31-4/1). Copies of the report were also distributed at the meeting.

Betsy and Tim Johnson (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wheatley, Ontario) completed the Lower Trophic Level Assessment Status section of the Forage Task Group's annual report. The information in this report was presented at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Lake Erie Committee annual meeting in Grand Island, NY (3/31-4/1). Copies of the report were also distributed at the meeting.

Betsy attended a Buffalo River Remedial Advisory Committee Habitat and Environment Technical Subcommittee meeting at the Buffalo State College Field Station (3/11). The group reviewed the 14 beneficial use impairments and discussed information needs and gaps, and criteria necessary for delisting.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Coordination

Mike attended the annual meeting of the regional Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC) instructors at the Regional Office (3/10). Mike discussed some of the major invasive species concerns in the region and how instructors can teach students to prevent the spread of invasive species in their work.

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Mike and Emily assisted Dave Copeland and local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops with a habitat improvement project on Dann Lake in the Town of Amherst (3/20). The group installed 12 bat houses, 12 bird houses, and 2 wood duck boxes (built by Mike) at the recently acquired site. The LGLFRO is also providing 25 willows for a tree planting scheduled for the same location on April 25.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Emily participated in “Career Day” at Frederick Law Olmsted School #56 in Buffalo (3/24). The seventh and eighth graders had many interesting questions about fishery biology and the skills needed to be a biologist.

Emily hosted two students from Orchard Park High School for job shadow day (3/25).

Mike gave a presentation at the 2004 Annual Enrichment Training for Environmental Professionals (3/31) titled “Can Great Lakes Native Fisheries Survive?” He discussed major issues affecting the Great Lakes including invasive species, pollution, and habitat loss. The LGLFRO showcased our office display and many handouts and office brochures throughout the day.

STAFF TRAINING

Betsy, Chris, Emily, Mike and Cara completed Red Cross Adult CPR training (3/4).

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.